(b) has the Government received any recommendation from the Registrar of Village Panchayats for granting this allowance;

(c) if so, why this recommendation was rejected?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon:—(a) There are at present 240 Judges in all. The allowance to be paid to these Judges at the rate of Re. 1 per sitting will come to Rs. 240. Presuming that there will be one sitting of each court every week, the annual expenditure will come to Rs. 240 x 52 or Rs. 12,480.

(b) Yes.

(c) The idea of the Panchayats is to get the people interested in the management of their own local affairs and there is no reason why the Government should pay Panchayatdars for what they are doing; nor is the type of person to whom a sitting fee of Re. 1 would appeal likely to be at all suitable for appointment as Judge.

Import—Cocoanut produce from Ceylon and other countries.

120. Mr. E. Ikanda Warriar:—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether they are aware that the large increase in the import of copra and other cocoanut produces from Ceylon and other foreign countries causes incalculable harm to the cocoanut producers and the cocoanut industry in the State;

(2) if so, what action, if any, have they taken to prevent it?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— (1) Government have realised that the copra trade of this State is being injuriously affected by the unequal competition of Ceylon.

(2) Such steps as are in the power of Government have been taken to counteract the effects of the large out-put of copra from Ceylon into the State. They have made a strong representation on the matter to the Government of India and along with the Travancore and the Madras Governments pleaded for recommending a higher import duty before the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Recommendations in favour of a higher import duty have been made by the council and the matter is awaiting final orders of the Government of India.

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